



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Enrollment Policy FAQs

If you require assistance or information in a language other than English, you may call the following numbers:

- Chinese: 202-671-0755
- French: 202-671-0760
- Spanish: 202-671-2347 OR 671-0758
- Vietnamese: 202-671-2280
- Amharic: 202-671-2654
- Korean: 202-719-6606

### *Guaranteed Schools*

#### **What do I need to do to enroll my child in school for the 2009-2010 school year?**

Beginning on May 1, 2009, you will need to provide your student's school with an enrollment form, provide proof that you live in the District of Columbia, provide immunization records and other health information, and complete an application for your child to receive free-or reduced-priced meals. Enrollment forms and guidelines for residency verification will be available at all schools as well as on the DCPS website ([www.k12.dc.us](http://www.k12.dc.us)).

#### **How do I know what schools my child may attend during the 2009-2010 school year?**

In most cases, your child will attend the same school he/she is attending this year. You can find out which school or schools are assigned to your student in several ways:

1. Internet: You can go to the website [www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options), click on the link "Find Your Assigned Schools" and enter your address and your child's current school to find his or her assigned school(s).
2. Your Child's School: If you do not have access to the Internet, you can go to your child's school and they will help you determine where your child can attend.
3. DCPS Critical Response Team: You can call the DCPS Critical Response Team at (202) 442-5885.

#### **What determines the schools my child has a right to attend?**

There are two ways to determine their assigned school or schools.

1. All students have been assigned schools at every grade level based on their home address.
2. Beginning in 2009-2010, all elementary school students will be assigned a middle school based on the elementary school that they currently attend, and all middle

school students will be assigned a high school based on the middle school they currently attend.

### ***Out-of-Boundary Process***

#### **What is the Out-of-Boundary Enrollment Process?**

The Out-of-Boundary Enrollment Process provides parents the option to apply to have their child attend a school other than the school(s) assigned to them. Availability at these schools is based on school capacity and projected enrollment.

#### **How do I submit an application to participate in the Out-of-Boundary Enrollment Process?**

Any parent residing in the District of Columbia may participate in the Out-of-Boundary Enrollment Process by submitting an application, beginning on January 28, 2009.

Applications will be accepted through the DCPS website ([www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options)) and may also be completed at any school.

#### **How does the Out-of-Boundary Enrollment Process work?**

Parents may apply to attend a school not assigned to them by submitting an application during the annual Out-of Boundary window. For the 2009-2010 school year, the out-of-boundary enrollment window will be open between January 28 and March 13. Parents will have the option of applying for up to five out-of-boundary schools.

A randomized electronic lottery will be held on March 18, 2009. Results will be posted online within 24 hours of the lottery, and will be mailed to families by March 31.

Families receiving a space through the Out-of-Boundary Enrollment Process *must notify the receiving school of their intent by April 15, 2009, and must complete the enrollment process at the school by May 15, 2009.*

First preference for spaces in out-of-boundary schools will be given to students who have siblings that currently attend that school. Preference is also given to students who live within a three-block radius of elementary schools or a five-block radius of middle or high schools.

Students who attend an out-of-boundary school currently will, as of 2009-2010, have a right to attend the school into which their current DCPS school feeds. This replaces the out-of-boundary preference that these students had previously.

#### **I want to apply to the dual language program Oyster-Adams or Tyler Elementary. What are the requirements?**

Oyster-Adams and Tyler Elementary are bilingual programs.

- Students who live in-boundary for these schools may always attend and should enroll as they would at any neighborhood school.
- Students who live outside the boundaries for these schools and wish to enter in kindergarten or first grade should apply online at [www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options) between January 28 and March 13. In these grades at Oyster-Adams, there are separate

lotteries for students whose primary language is English and those whose primary language is Spanish.

- Students who live outside the boundaries for these schools and wish to enter in second grade or later must apply through the out-of-boundary lottery and must demonstrate grade level proficiency in both languages.

**Does DCPS have other elementary or middle schools that have a special focus?**

For more info on specific schools and their offerings, see DCPS Closeups at [www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options).

**How does my child apply to attend a selective high school?**

Several high schools in DCPS have specialized programs and application processes. For more information, please visit [www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options) and click on “City-Wide Selective High Schools”.

***Pre-kindergarten and Pre-school Enrollment Process***

**What programs does DCPS offer for students too young to attend kindergarten?**

DCPS offers free pre-kindergarten and/or Head Start programs at all elementary schools and offers pre-school programs at 27 schools across the city. Students are not required to attend pre-kindergarten or pre-school, and DCPS is unable to guarantee that all families interested in these programs will be able to send their students to the school of their choice.

**Which students are served by DCPS’ pre-kindergarten, pre-school, and Head Start programs?**

Children who turn four by September 30, 2009 are eligible to enroll in pre-kindergarten programs. Children who turn three by September 30, 2009, are eligible to enroll in pre-school programs. As a federally funded comprehensive child development program, Head Start accepts children who are 3 years old by September 30<sup>th</sup> through compensatory school age (5 years old) and are in low-income families.

**What is the difference between DCPS pre-school and pre-kindergarten programs and Head Start programs?**

Head Start is a federally funded comprehensive child development programs serving pre-school and pre-kindergarten students and their families. Head Start focuses on the overall goal of increasing the social competence of young children in low-income families, and also offers family support. DCPS pre-school and pre-kindergarten programs do not necessarily offer additional family supports.

**I want to apply for pre-kindergarten or pre-school at my neighborhood elementary school. What should I do?**

If you are interested in pre-kindergarten or pre-school programs, please visit our website at [www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options) or your neighborhood elementary school to identify the programs offered at each school.

Applications for pre-kindergarten and pre-school can be submitted through the DCPS Pre-kindergarten and Pre-school Enrollment Process, between January 28, 2009 and March 13, 2009 through the DCPS website or at the school. This enrollment application will be submitted as part of the out-of-boundary enrollment process. (See above to learn more about the Out-of-Boundary Enrollment Process).

Families have until April 15 to visit or call the school in which they obtained an in-boundary pre-kindergarten or pre-school lottery slot to indicate their interest in enrolling their child for the upcoming school year. Families must then verify their in-boundary residence between May 1 and May 15.

**Will my child automatically receive a pre-kindergarten placement?**

Not necessarily. Due to space limitations, some schools have more applications for pre-kindergarten than available spaces. In cases where a school receives more applications than there are available spaces, students will be selected through a randomized electronic lottery that will be held on March 18, 2009. Siblings of current students at the school will receive preference, as will students who live in-boundary for the school.

After the March 18<sup>th</sup> lottery, students will be placed on a first-come, first-served basis.

**How can I register my three or four year old child for Head Start?**

DCPS cannot accept applications for Head Start through the Pre-kindergarten and Pre-school Enrollment Process. To register or find out more information, contact one of the following Head Start offices. Registration begins February 2, 2009.

Webb Elementary School  
1375 Mt. Olivet Road, N.E.  
(202) 724-3900

Seaton Elementary School  
10th & Rhode Island Ave., N.W.  
(202) 673-7303

Johnson Middle School  
1200 12th Place, S.E.  
(202) 698-1033

Frederick Douglass- Phase II  
3240 Stanton Road, S.E.  
(202) 698-1127

**Does DCPS offer any specialized programs for young children?**

DCPS offers Montessori programs at Langdon Educational Campus, Marshall Educational Campus, Nalle Elementary School, Watkins Elementary School and Burrville Elementary School. DCPS also offers Reggio Emilia programs at Peabody Elementary School and Montgomery Elementary School.

To find out more about these programs, please visit [www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options).